

Message Text

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67

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C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10597

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF UK REPLY DPQ(73)

REF: (A) USNATO 3842, (B) USNATO 4016

1. EMBASSY HAS REVIEWED UK REPLY DPQ(73). WE FEEL THAT IT IS IN LINE WITH UK MILITARY AND ECONOMIC CAPABILITY AND BUDGET ESTIMATES. WE CONCUR IN QUESTIONS WHICH USNATO WILL POSE (REF B, PARA 4) IN NATO REVIEW.

2. WE HAVE TWO COMMENTS ON UK REPLY WHICH MIGHT BE BASIS FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS:

(A) THE GENERAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT ON PAGE 29, PART VII OF ITEM 1 IS UNREALISTICALLY OPTIMISTIC. IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT A RATE OF GROWTH OF GNP OF FIVE PERCENT WILL BE MAINTAINED THROUGH THE FIRST HALF OF 1974.

(B) WE QUESTION WHETHER THE JAGUAR AIRCRAFT WILL ENTER FRONT LINE SERVICE AS FAST AS PREDICTED IN UK REPLY. PAGE 2 ITEM IV INDICATES TWO SQUADRONS OF 24
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AIRCRAFT WILL BE ON LINE BY END 1974. IT WOULD APPEAR

THAT TWO SQUADRONS COULD BE FORMED ALTHOUGH IT IS
DOUBTFUL THAT THEY WOULD BE BOTH FULLY QUALIFIED,
FULL STRENGTHED COMBAT SQUADRONS.
SOHM

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